

California Polytechnic State University

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UCSB Professor to Discuss 'Nerd Girls' Oct. 27 at Cal Poly

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Mary Bucholtz, associate professor of linguistics at UC Santa Barbara, will talk on “Nerd Girls: Nerdiness as a Gender Style Among California Teenage Girls” Wednesday, Oct. 27, from 4 to 5 p.m. in Room 215 in the Science North Building at Cal Poly.

The presentation will explore ‘nerdiness’ as a gender style among European-American female high- school students, focusing on how nerdy social practices position nerd girls against the dominant gender order at school.

According to Bucholtz, “Nerds opt out of the pursuit of coolness to construct an alternative youth style based on intelligence, humor and eccentricity. For girls, nerdiness resolves several social quandaries, enabling the expression of intellectual ability and permitting styles that are normally off limits as ‘unhip.’”

Bucholtz specializes in the study of language and identity, with a focus on gender, race, and youth in the United States.

The talk is cosponsored by the Cal Poly Women's Studies Program and English Department as part of the Women's Studies Program's Gender & Culture lecture series. It is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the Women's Studies Program office at 756-1525 or womst@polymail.calpoly.edu.

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